



The President's Daily Brief

December 14, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

December 14, 1976

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USSR: An article by the director of the USSR's USA Institute appears to caution Pravda readers that a new administration in the US does not necessarily mean early progress for Soviet-US relations.

Georgi Arbatov, director of the institute, went out of his way in an article that appeared Saturday in Pravda to put President-elect Carter and Secretary of State-designate Vance in a favorable light. He added, however, that "deep-seated factors and trends in American policy" will create difficulties in forwarding "detente." Arbatov concluded that the discussion of issues in the US is "still too vague to draw final conclusions about future US policy."

The article is consistent with other Soviet commentary which has argued that Soviet-US relations have been on a treadmill for the past year, and that it is up to Washington to take the initiative. The Soviet position, as presented in the media, is that such key issues as SALT, MBFR, the Middle East, and economic relations are stalemated, but that the US would find itself knocking on an open door in any demarche to the USSR. The public and private remarks of General Secretary Brezhnev in the past few weeks have added further weight to this view.

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EGYPT:

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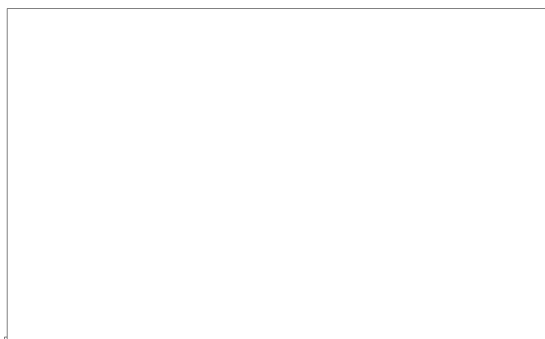
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IRAN - SOUTH YEMEN:

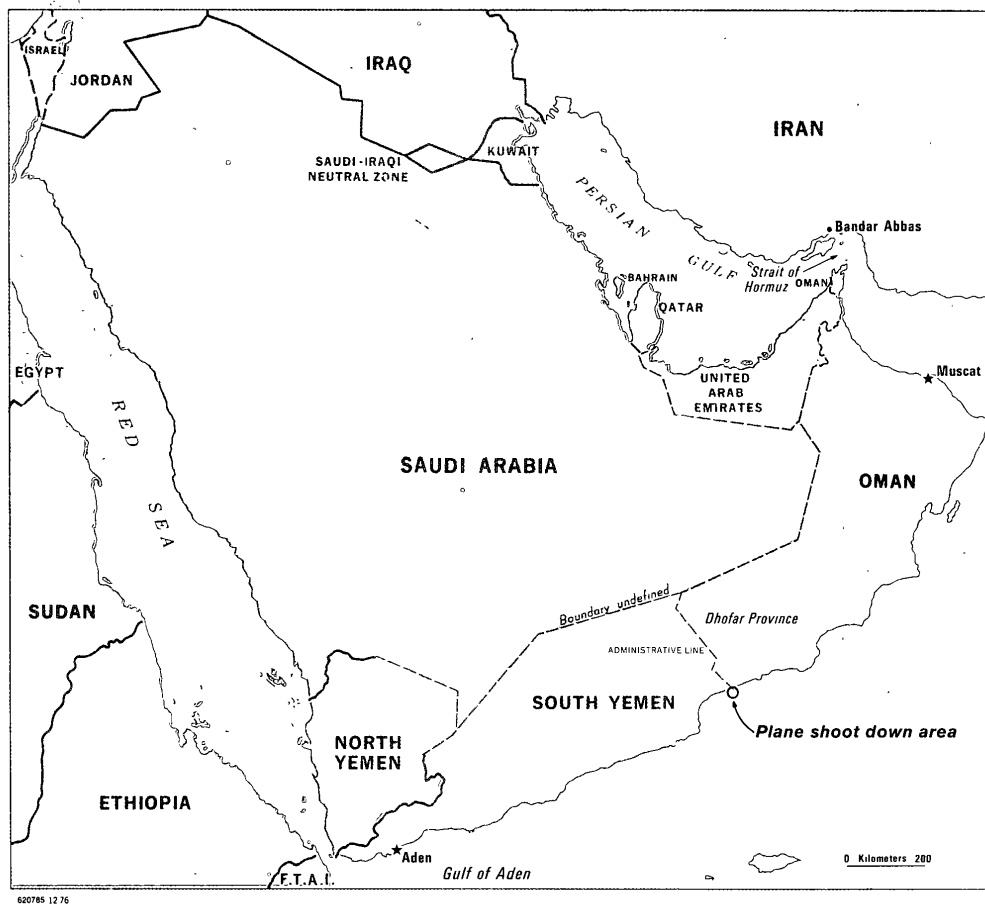
Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have apparently arranged the release from South Yemen of the Iranian F-4 pilot shot down and captured on November 24. Iran appears to have taken steps to recover the wreckage of the plane.

The Shah dispatched three Iranian destroyers and a logistic ship from Bandar Abbas yesterday for waters off Oman's Dhofar Province. Their mission is either to raise or destroy the downed plane, according to [redacted] the US defense attache in Tehran. The aircraft is

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lying about three kilometers off South Yemen's shore in 15 meters of water. It is unlikely that the naval movements signal hostile intentions. South Yemen may have agreed to a formula whereby Iran will use the ships to recover or destroy the downed plane.

We do not know what concessions, if any, the Shah or those mediating the dispute made to South Yemen. According to one early report, South Yemen demanded that Saudi Arabia make some public acknowledgment that the Iranian plane had violated South Yemen's airspace.

Barring a last-minute hitch over the plane, the dispute now seems relegated to propaganda channels. Radical Arab states can be expected to intensify their attacks on Iran's military presence on the Arabian peninsula. 25X1

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RHODESIA: [REDACTED]

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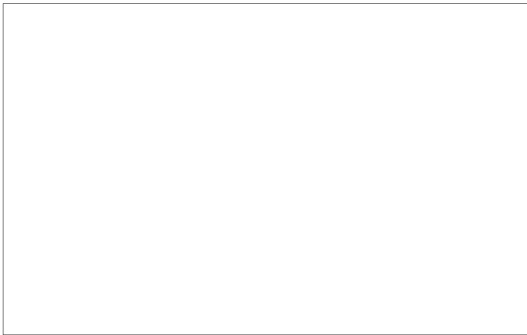
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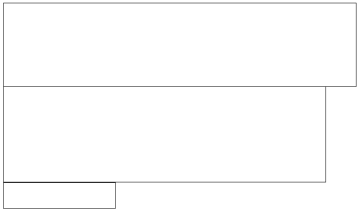
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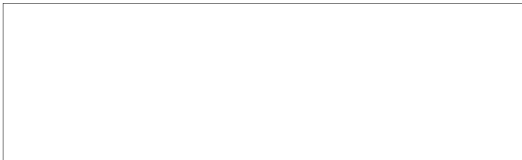
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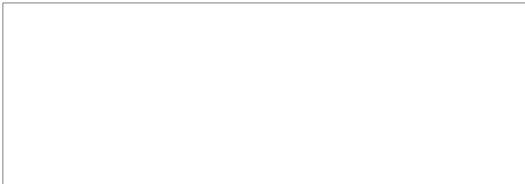
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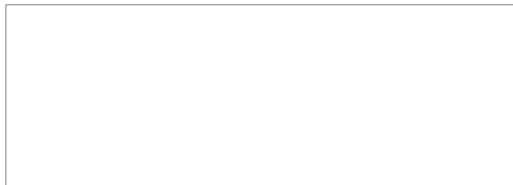


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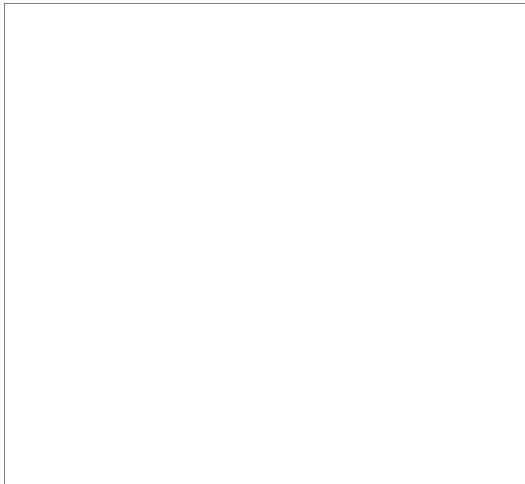
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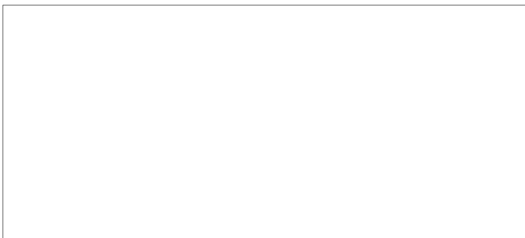
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NOTES 25X1

Relations between Zaire and the USSR, brought to the verge of a diplomatic break during the Angolan war, have largely returned to normal over the past month.

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The visit of Soviet Premier Kosygin to Poland is a further indication of the USSR's concern over Warsaw's domestic difficulties.

Kosygin's trip follows a visit by Polish party leader Gierek to the USSR last month and is ostensibly focused on the opening of the Katowice steelworks, which were built with Soviet assistance. Kosygin is likely to concentrate on economic matters in his talks with Polish officials.

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